

SUPPLEMENT TO THE NÚRAFSHÁN

VOL. 3.

FRIDAY:—MAY 5th, 1899.

No. 18

Editorial Notes.

It now seems certain that the unfortunate struggle between the Filipinos and their friends, the Americans will soon be ended. The telegram informing us of Aguinaldo's desire for peace brought welcome news indeed. The surest way for the Filipinos to secure practical independence is to throw themselves upon the generosity of the American people.

All readers of the Indian Witness are grateful to Bishop Thoburn for his most interesting and lucid letters written from Manila. We welcome him back to India. All friends of Missions will hope for the fruition of his hopes for carrying the gospel into the Philippines. Under the regenerating influence of the gospel the Malay race may be raised to a prominent place among the nations of the world.

Those who are interested in promoting self-support may be discouraged, but will surely derive some practical ideas from a careful reading of an article on the self-government of the native church in the April number of the Harvest Field. His criticism of the Native Church is summed up in the following paragraph:

"It is not difficult to get the peo-

ple of this country to imitate foreign organizations. They will put on paper an admirable scheme and for a short time they will be enthusiastic. But this is something external: it is not the expression of their life and thought, Rules are not made to be kept, but to serve the convenience of the members: officers are appointed not to administer and serve, but to gain power and privilege and to work the organization for their own purpose. Hence the many mushroom growths we have all seen in the form of short-lived societies in the Church.

"In brief our people lack the genius of organization: they do not understand the principles of self government: they prefer others to do their thinking for them and to guide them. They are happy with ministers from far to rule them, with pastors and teachers obedient to the Mission that supports them. They know that any change must mean work, worry, and expenditure of time and energy on their part, and therefore the present state of things is best for them. This seems to me to represent the present attitude of the great majority of the members of our churches. There are of course honorable exceptions but they are in a way small minority."

A brother writes suggesting the present need of the native ministry giving itself to the study of oriental religions so as to be prepared for the new movement of so-called Hindu reform. In order to the suc-

cessful study of these religions it is suggested that an Oriental Library is needed. This brother suggests this library should be connected with the Núr Afshán. We like the suggestion and propose an organization of an Oriental Christian Library Association, with a membership of persons subscribing one rupee annually, the subscription fees to constitute an income to be used in the purchase of books and periodicals needed. To feel the pulse of the Núr Afshán constituency we will register the names of all persons willing to join in such Library Association. Send your names and addresses but send no money until it is called for. This list of names will be printed in the Núr Afshán. Can we not have a membership of at least 100 to begin with? Let us have a prompt response to this call. Any suggestions will be thankfully received. Address all communications to the Editor of *The Núr Afshán*.

All friends of the cause of peace in the world will rejoice at the understanding arrived at between Britain and Russia, with the guarantee of national integrity for the Chinese Empire.

All our readers will be shocked to learn of the death of the Rev. Samuel H. Kellogg D.D. who was killed March 8th at Missouri by a fall over a precipice.

Current Thought & Incident.

Some Accidental Inventions.

GUNPOWDER

AN Augustinian monk, Berthold Schwartz, having put a composition of sulphur and saltpetre in a mortar, it took fire, and the stone that covered it was blown off with great violence, which accident led the chemist to think it might be used to much advantage in attacking fortified places. He accordingly added to it a quantity of charcoal, to render it more apt to take fire and increase combustion.

LEADEN SHOT

Leaden shot are attributed to a Bristol plumber, who, one night about the year 1783, "had a dream which was not all a dream," that he was out in a shower of molten lead, which fell in the form of spherical drops. His curiosity being aroused, he went next day to the top of a church, and poured some melted lead into a vessel of water lying below. To his great delight he found that the lead had gathered into beautifully formed globular balls, and he at once took out a patent.

ETCHING ON GLASS

A Nuremberg glass-cutter happened to let some aqua fortis fall upon his spectacles, and noticed that the glass was corroded and softened where the acid had touched it. Taking the hint, he made a liquid, then drew some figures upon a piece of glass, covered them with varnish, applied his corroding fluid, and cut away the glass around his drawing. When he removed the varnish, the figures appeared raised upon a dark ground; and etching upon glass was added to the ornamental arts.

THE TELESCOPE

One day, nearly three hundred years ago, a poor optician was working in his shop in the town of Middleburg, in the Netherlands his children helping him or amusing themselves with the tools and objects lying about, when suddenly his little girl exclaimed: "O papa, see how near the steeple comes!" Anxious to learn the cause of the child's amazement, he turned toward her and saw that she was looking through two lenses, one held close to her eye, the other at arm's length; and calling her to his side, he noticed that the eye lense was plano-con-

cave, while the other was plano-convex. Taking the two glasses, he repeated his daughter's experiment, and soon discovered that she had chanced to hold the lenses at the proper focus, thus producing the wonderful discovery, and he at once set about making use of his knowledge of lenses. Ere long he had fashioned a tube of pasteboard, in which he set the glasses at their proper focus, and so the telescope was invented.

THE KNITTING-MACHINE

Among the many traditions concerning William Lee and the stocking-frame is one that he was expelled from the university for marrying, and that, being very poor, his wife was obliged to contribute toward the housekeeping by knitting. It was while watching the motion of her fingers that he conceived how to imitate those movements by a machine.

THE SPINNING JENNY.

Arkwright accidentally derived the idea of spinning by rollers from seeing a red-hot bar elongated by being passed between two rollers.

"EUREKA! EUREKA!"

The ordinary practice of taking a bath solved for Archimedes the question of how to test the purity of the gold in Hiero's crown. He observed that when he stepped into a full bath, the quantity of water which overflowed was equal to the bulk of his body, and it occurred to him that the worth of the crown might be tested by such means. He thereupon made two masses of the same weight as the crown, one of gold the other of silver, and immersed them separately in a vessel filled to the brim, measuring exactly the quantity of water which overflowed in each case. Having found by this means what measure of the fluid answered to the quantity of each metal, less in the case of the gold than of the silver—the bulk of the former being less weight after weight—he next immersed the crown itself, and found that it caused more water to overflow than the gold, but less than the silver. Having found the difference between the two masses of pure gold and silver, in certain known proportions, he was able to compute the real quantity of each metal in the crown, and thus discovered the fraud that had been practised on the king, to whom he hurried exclaiming, "Eureka! Eureka!" ("I have found it! I have found it!" an exclamation that has ever since been used to express exultation over a discovery

SACCHARINE

Coming down now to our own time, the account of the discovery of saccharine, one of the numerous by-products of the gasmaker's refuse, whose sweetness is three hundred times more intense than that of cane-sugar, reads almost like a romance. Doctor Fahlburg had entered John Hopkins University in America in order to devote himself exclusively to a study of the chemistry of coal-tar derivatives. Some months had passed when one evening at tea-time he detected an intensely sweet flavour upon his bread and butter. He traced the sweetness to his fingers, to his hands, and to his coat sleeves; and it dawned upon him that it must have been derived from one of the new compounds which he had that day succeeded in producing. He promptly returned to his laboratory and tested the contents of every vessel with which he had been working. His idea was correct. One of his beakers contained the sweet material.

Chambers.

The Desire for God.

BY REV ALEXANDER MCKENZIE, D. D.

Many regard the Old Testament as a cold book, formal, rigid. On the contrary, there is an abundance of warmth in it, of glowing thought and passionate expression. The soul is found panting for God; hungering and thirsting for God; longing for the delights of his presence. Even the flesh is crying out for God. Indeed, the flesh is more highly esteemed than in the later books of the Bible. The incarnation gives it supreme honor. But afterward it is compared to grass, and pronounced destitute of all good things. At length in the church it is placed in strange company, where we have "the world, the flesh and the devil." In the Psalms it is turning toward its Maker with strong yearning. The spiritual nature, wherein man is allied with God, and the lower nature, wherein he is allied with the earth, are found united in desire. It is a pure desire, for it is not the mere cry for help, as of one in distress; but rather a feeling akin to homesickness; the longing for the familiar places, the endeared companionship. Augustine felt this: "Thou madest us for thyself, and our heart is restless, until it repose in thee." There is in one of the Psalms of desire a more beautiful expression, which is one of the finest in litera-

ture: "The sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God." What could be finer than the flight of a bird, "the clothed power of the air," to the altar of God—borne on by its nature, which is his gift? So is the man, by his simple desire, to fly to the place where God can be found. This desire must be even more acceptable than prayer, in that it asks nothing but to be with God. The longing is an inheritance from him; for when he had made the world he desired some one in it whom he could love, and who could love him, and this desire became man, in whom he delighted. When man had ceased to care for God, the divine desire did not cease. The man and woman hid among the trees, but God sought them, and his longing cries out for them, "Where art thou?" Afterward in his desire he came seeking and saving the man who had gone from him. He is seen as a father, looking down the road on which his wandering son will return, and running to meet him, flesh and heart crying out for their son.

A longing for God which answers to his longing for us is a force for good. It raises our thoughts, purifies our purposes, enlarges our strength. The desire begins in the soul. When it gains the flesh—the desires which are not of themselves spiritual—it has gained the victory of life. The young midshipman, going into his first engagement trembled as he thought of the peril to his body into which his soul was dragging it. But the soul prevailed, and the boy became an English admiral.

This longing for God is in line with our nature. Our life is his life given to us, his breath breathed into us, and it should seek its source. The life in us should desire to be completely in the divine life in which it has its being. It is not a painful desire, for it can be gratified. Thirst in a desert, where no water is, is painful; but thirst by a water brook is the anticipation of the pleasure which in a moment will be known. The desire grows by indulgence. O taste and see that the Lord is good! An hour with him cannot content us; it makes us yearn for prolonged companionship, for the sweetness of his presence at all times. The desire is fostered by God himself.

"God loves to be longed for. He loves to be sought,
For he sought us himself with such longing and love."

He creates the desire and encourages it. He came into the world to draw us to himself. Our Lord, by his call and promises, by his love lavishly given, by his presence, full of all attractiveness, would have us desire him more and more. Only through this can his love fulfil its intent and bring us into his joy. Among men Christ is the ear of God to hear us; the hand of God to help us; the heart of God to love us. He is divine desire, which can be satisfied only when it has found our desire and brought us entirely within the desire of God. We are, therefore, to enlarge our desire. It cannot be too large, or larger than the content which is prepared for it. Every movement of our spirit toward God is to be quickened, by our indulgence; by our thought of him and his desire; by communion with him; by prayer and obedience and devout worship.

We are not to twine the strings of our harp with lilies "to deaden their vibration," or to lay our hand heavily upon them; but to delight in their full response to our touch, and to the touch of the fingers of Christ. It has been thoughtfully written that "a prayer is the transcendent effect of intelligence." The longing for God is the transcendent prayer; the passion of the soul, the ascent to the Eternal—the eternal Life and Love. We shall be satisfied when we are with him, dwelling in his delight. The highest promise given to us is that we shall be like Christ, for we shall see him as he is. With him and like him—this is the crowning of desire. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for this.

The balsam, the wine of predestinate wills
Is a jubilant pining and longing for God."

The Presbyterian.

Courage and Bravery.

COURAGE and bravery do not mean exactly the same. Courage is cool and deliberate and often acts solely from a sense of duty while bravery is frequently inspired by the excitement of the occasion, love of glory, or is a part of a venturesome and reckless spirit. In the incident below, cited by D' Aubigne, the old knight realized the difference between his own bravery and Luther's courage.

As Luther drew near the door that was about to admit him into the presence of his judges at Worms, he

met a valiant knight who had won many victories in conflict.

The old general, seeing Luther pass, tapped him on the shoulder, and shaking his head, blanched in many battles, said kindly:

"Poor monk, poor monk! thou art now going to make a nobler stand than I or any other captain has ever made in the bloodiest of battles. But if thy cause is just, and thou art sure of it, go forward in God's name, and fear nothing. God will not forsake thee."

Be Ready.

If the Lord Jesus Christ were to come today, I should like Him to find me at my studying, praying or preaching, said Dr. Spurgeon, who continued: Would you not like Him to find you in your Sunday-school, in your class or out there at the corner of the street preaching or doing whatever you had the privilege of doing in his name? Would you meet your Lord in idleness? Do not think of it.

I called one day on one of my church members, and she was whitening the front steps. She got up all in confusion and said:

"O, dear sir, I did not know you were coming today, or I would have been ready."

I replied: "Dear friend, you could not be in better trim than you are; you are doing your duty like a good housewife; and may God bless you!"

She had no money to spare for a servant, and she was doing her duty by keeping the home tidy. I thought she looked more beautiful with her pail beside her than if she had been dressed according to the latest fashion. I said to her:

"When the Lord Jesus Christ comes suddenly, I hope He will find me doing as you were doing—namely, fulfilling the duty of the hour."

Telegrams.

London, April 26.

The Sirdar has arrived at Berber after 800 miles of a camel ride through Eastern Soudan.

He found the country much ruined, but the people are thankful for their release from Dervish rule.

London, April 26.

The Times states that M. De Witte, Russian Minister of Finance, in secret report to the Committee of Ministers on the subject of Anglo-Russian trade relations, says that England is the only market in which Russia can find re-

hief for the present agricultural depression, and England is not less important as a market for Russian funds.

London, April 26.

The Americans have captured the town of Calumpit, Aguinaldo's latest head quarters, after severe fighting. The American loss was slight, whilst the casualties in the ranks of the Filipinos are described as very severe.

London, April 26.

Speaking in the Hungarian Diet, the Premier stated there was no present intention on the part of Hungary to acquire territory in China.

London, April 26.

The Samoan Commissioners have sailed from San Francisco for Apia in the cruiser *Badger*.

London, April 26.

an enormous rise is quoted in the price of copper, due to the operations of the American ring. It is disclosing the trade of Birmingham. Government has stopped ordering cartridges while the inflation lasts.

London, April 27.

The *Times* announces that Government has decided to contribute a uniform yearly subsidy to the full amount recommended by the Cable Committee as a guarantee for the construction of an all-British Pacific Cable.

London, April 27.

Mr. Goschen, speaking at the banquet of the Mechanical Engineers, said that the appearance of Europe was much more tranquil than a few months ago. Great Britain had made friendly settlements with Germany and France, and he hoped we were on the eve of making one with Russia.

London, April 27.

Despatches from Apia, dated the 18th instant, report renewed fighting between large bodies of friendlyes and rebels. The casualties are estimated at under twenty. There was no loss of life amongst the Europeans.

London, April 27.

Captain Coghlan, of the United States Navy, has been reprimanded for the speech he made at the recent banquet in New York, and the incident is now closed.

London, April 27.

At the funeral of the late Colonel Sir Robert Warburton, which took place to-day at Brompton, the Queen and the Prince of Wales were represented. Her Majesty sent a wreath inscribed as "a tribute of regard and esteem of one of her most distinguished soldiers."

London, April 28.

More stubborn fighting with the insurgents has taken place around Calumpit. The Americans eventually carried three lines of Filipino entrenchments and advanced their position four miles beyond Calumpit.

London, April 28.

Replying to questions in the House of Commons, Mr. Brodrick stated that the Foreign Office has no intimation of any Russian concession at Bunder Abbas.

London, April 28.

A cyclone has swept over the towns of Kirksville and Newtown in the state of Missouri. Four hundred houses were destroyed in Kirksville, and it is believed that seventy-five lines have been lost and a thousand persons injured.

London, April 28.

The English papers, including the Radical organs, are unanimously demanding that ac-

tion shall be taken by the Imperial Government in response to the petition of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal for the redress of their grievances. Numerous meetings are being held at Johannesburg demanding political rights.

The Krugerite organs insist that the agitation is manufactured, as it was prior to the Jameson raid.

London, April 29.

The *Morning Post* publishes a telegram from St. Petersburg stating that an agreement between Great Britain and Russia regarding railways in China was signed in St. Petersburg yesterday. According to the terms of the agreement Russia binds herself not to attempt to obtain, or to assist another Power to obtain, a railway or similar concession in the Yangtze Valley, and Great Britain gives a similar pledge regarding Manchuria. Existing enterprises in both spheres are also safeguarded.

Reuter's Agency confirms the statement that an Anglo-Russian agreement relating to China was signed at St. Petersburg yesterday.

London, April 29.

General Otis has declined the Filipino request for an armistice, and has demanded the surrender of insurgents, promising them an amnesty. Negotiations for peace have thus ended without result.

London, April 29.

The final football match of the League Championship competition, played to-day resulted in Aston Villa defeating Liverpool by five goals to nothing, thus securing the League Championship.

Aden, May 1.

The death is announced of the Duke of Beaufort.

London, April 29.

In the House of commons yesterday, Mr. Chamberlain stated that President Kruger had been informed that the dynamite concession was breach of the convention with Great Britain.

London, April 30.

President Kruger, in a speech at the opening of the Volksraad, said he hoped during the present session to submit a proposal regarding the franchise, the mining rights and the dynamite question. The president also announced that it had been decided to enforce the Indian location resolutions from the 1st July.

London, May 1.

The German Press welcomes the Anglo-Russian agreement as a guarantee of peace. Some French newspapers express the same view, while others question whether Russia has not ignored French interests. The English Press is somewhat reserved in commenting on the announcement pending the publication of details.

"THE INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF CHINA."

The preamble to the Anglo-Russian agreement states that Russia and Britain agree to uphold the integrity and independence of China.

THE NEWCHAWANG RAILWAY.

In the house of commons to-day, Mr. Balfour promised to lay the text of the agreement before the House as soon as it was received. He added that there are special stipulations protecting the Newchwang Railway.

BOOKS FOR SALE.

The prices include postage

ROMAN URDU QUR'AN	Rs. 4.
History Am. Presbyterian	
Missions in India (Newton)	1
Report Punjab Decennial	
Conferece 1862 ...	2
Urdu-Greek Dictionary ...	2
Punjabi Grammar and ...	
Exercises with Vocabulary ...	
(E. P. Newton. (Just published)	9-8
Hymn Books, cloth bound	1
" " " (music)	3/8
" " Paper cover limp	8as
" " cloth " "	11as

Will be sent V. P. P.

Address Ludhiana Book Depot

Ludhiana.

FOR SALE.

Office desks-square top, green baize, 54ft. by 3ft.—two drawers and four doors with lock. Price Rs. 30

Crokanole Boards with men, Complete, Deodar wood Rs. 6. Shisham or Toun Rs. 9.

Also orders taken for Persian Rugs and shoes of all kinds.

Apply to

The Principal

Christian Boys' Boarding School,

Ludhiana.

SUPPLEMENT.

Contributed Articles on important themes and items of News will be thankfully received. All communications should be addressed to the Editor, Nur Afshan, Ludhiana.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Combined Paper (Urdu Rs. 2/8/- English Supplement Re. 1/-—Rs. 3/8/-)	
Supplement Re. 1/11/- (Postage 13 annas—Rs. 2/8/-)	
Two Copies in one Cover Rs. 2/2/- and Rs. 3/2/- each.	
Three Copies or more in one Cover Rs. 1/12 and Rs. 2/12/- each.	
Subscription rate in England 4s. and 6s. America \$ 1. and \$ 1. 50.	
For Students ordering through the Head Masters or Superintendents of all Schools Rs. 1/8 and Rs. 2/4 each.	